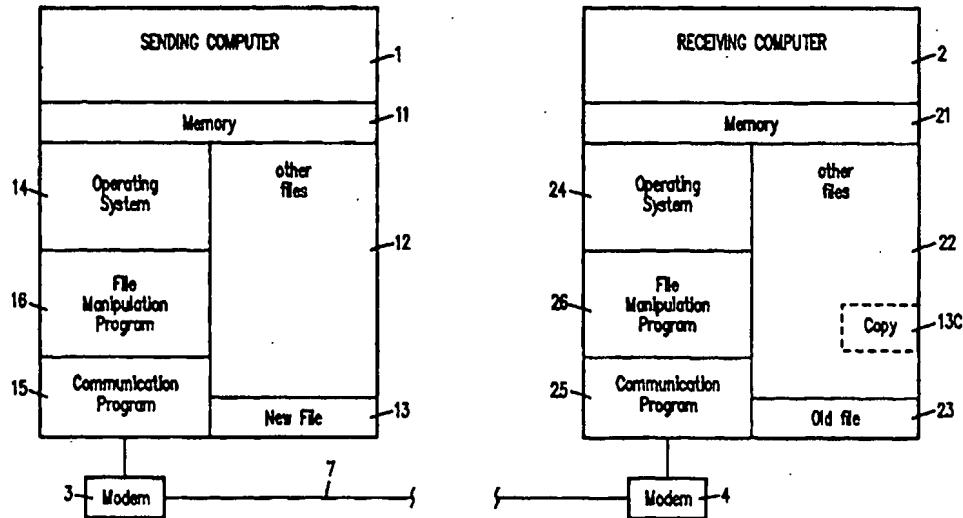




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## (54) Title: FILE TRANSFER METHOD AND APPARATUS USING HASH NUMBERS



## (57) Abstract

The present invention facilitates and speeds the transmission of a copy of a new file (13) to a receiving computer (2) where the receiving computer (2) has an old file (23). The sending computer (1) does not know the status or content of the old file (23). As a preliminary step, the receiving computer divides the old file into segments, and calculates a hash number for each segment. The receiving computer (2) then transmits these hash numbers to the sending computer (1). The sending computer (1) examines each segment in the new file (13) to determine which, if any, segments in the new file (13) have hash numbers that match the hash numbers received from the receiving computer (2). The sending computer (1) sends to the receiving computer (2) those bytes from the new file (13) that are not part of any matching segment and an indication where matching segments fit into the new file (13). Finally, the receiving computer (2) constructs a copy of the new file (13C) from the bytes received and from the matching segments in the old file (23).

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## 1    FILE TRANSFER METHOD AND APPARATUS USING HASH NUMBERS

2    Field of the Invention:

3    The present invention relates to electronic computers and  
4    more particularly to the transfer of files between  
5    computers.

6    Background of the Invention:

7    There are a wide variety of commercially available  
8    computer programs which facilitate transferring files  
9    between computers utilizing modems and telephone lines.

10   Among such commercially available programs are:  
11   "Crosstalk" marketed by DCA Corp of Atlanta, Georgia;  
12   "QModem" marketed by Forgin Inc. of Cedar Falls Iowa;  
13   and, "Close-Up", marketed by Norton Lambert Corp of Santa  
14   Barbara, CA.

15   The physical characteristics of normal telephone lines  
16   limit the transmission speed which can be used to  
17   transmit data over such lines. In order to shorten the  
18   time required to transmit data, various data compression  
19   and error correcting protocols are in widespread use.

20   It is known that when a file on a particular computer is  
21   being updated, the transmission time can be shorted by  
22   merely transmitting information which relates to the  
23   "differences" or the "delta" between the present file and

1 the previously transmitted file. The technique of only  
2 transmitting the delta between two files is only  
3 applicable in situations where the sending system knows  
4 the state of the file at the receiving station.

5 The present invention provides a technique for rapidly  
6 transmitting files between computers where the computer  
7 receiving the information has a file stored thereon, but  
8 where the sending computer does not know the state (i.e.  
9 the exact contents) of the file at the receiving  
10 computer.

11 Summary of the Invention:

12 The present invention facilitates the transmission of a  
13 file (hereinafter referred to as the new file) from a  
14 first computer to a second computer, in a situation where  
15 the second computer has a file (hereinafter referred to  
16 as the old file) but where the first computer does not  
17 know the status or content of the old file. With the  
18 present invention, as a preliminary step, the second  
19 computer divides the old file into segments, and  
20 calculates a hash number for each segment. The second  
21 computer transmits these hash numbers to the first  
22 computer. The first computer examines each possible  
23 segment in the new file to determine which if any  
24 segments in the new file have hash numbers which  
25 correspond to the hash numbers received from the second  
26 computer (such segments are hereinafter called matching

1 segments). The first computer sends to the second  
2 computer those bytes from the new file that are not part  
3 of any matching segment and an indication of which  
4 matching segments fit into the new file. The second  
5 computer constructs copy of the new file from the bytes  
6 received and from the matching segments in the old file.

7 Brief Description of the Drawings:

8 Figure 1 is an overall block diagram of the computer  
9 systems.

10 Figure 2 is a block diagram of the actions that take  
11 place at the receiving computer.

12 Figure 3A is an example of a Segment Profile Table.

13 Figure 3B is a table giving an example of information  
14 transmitted by the sending computer.

15 Figure 4 is a block diagram of the actions that take  
16 place at the sending computer.

17 Detailed Description of a Preferred embodiment:

18 Two interconnected computers that can be used to practice  
19 the invention are shown in Figure 1. A sending computer  
20 1 is connected to a receiving computer 2 via modems 3 and  
21 4 and a telephone line 7. A new file 13, is stored in  
22 computer 1. The preferred embodiment of the invention

1 described herein can be used to transfer a copy of file  
2 13 from computer 1 to computer 2. The copy of the file  
3 13 which resides in computer 2 after the transfer  
4 operation is designated 13C. It is shown in dotted lines  
5 in Figure 1 since it is only present in computer 2 after  
6 the transfer operation is complete.

7 Computer 1 has a conventional internal RAM memory 11  
8 which has stored therein a number of programs and files.  
9 It is noted that while various programs and files are  
10 shown as being in the RAM memory 11 of computer 1, a  
11 substantial part of these programs and files could  
12 alternatively be stored on other types conventional  
13 storage devices such as on magnetic disks. How the  
14 various programs and files are stored is not particularly  
15 relevant to the present invention and it can be in any  
16 conventional manner.

17 As shown in Figure 1, the computer memory 11 includes an  
18 operating system 14, a communication program 15, a file  
19 manipulation program 16, a new file 13 and other files  
20 12. The operating system 14 can for example be the DOS  
21 operating system that is marketed by Microsoft  
22 Corporation and the communications program 15 can be a  
23 conventional communication program for a DOS type of  
24 computer. The new file 13 is the file which computer 1  
25 will transferred to computer 2 utilizing the present  
26 invention. It is noted that as used herein the term

1 "transferring a file" should be understood as synonymous  
2 with the more precise terms "transferring a copy of a  
3 file". Furthermore as will be explained hereinafter in  
4 alternative embodiments of the invention, the "file"  
5 being transferred may merely be a designated string of  
6 bytes and not a complete file in the sense that a DOS  
7 file is a complete file.

8 The file manipulation program 16, and related program 26  
9 in computer 2, are the programs which implement the main  
10 parts of the present invention as hereinafter described.  
11 The operations performed by these programs are shown in  
12 block diagram form in Figures 2 and 4.

13 The computer 2 is substantially identical to the computer  
14 1 and the components in computer 2, other than the files,  
15 are identical. Computer 2 includes memory 21, operating  
16 system 24, file manipulation program 26, communication  
17 program 25 and a file designated "old file" 23.

18 It is noted that new file 13, and old file 23, are merely  
19 illustrative of files that are typically stored on  
20 personal computers and work stations. Typically a  
21 computer will have many stored files and often the user  
22 of a computer has a desire and need to transfer a file to  
23 another computer. There are many existing programs and  
24 protocols designed for this purpose. Many of these  
25 protocols involve various types of compression.

1 Conventional communication programs 15 and 25 may or may  
2 not use the conventional type of compression techniques  
3 for transmitting data. The present invention relates to  
4 the particular information which is transmitted in order  
5 to transmit a complete file. The actual transmission  
6 mechanism for transmitting the information may be  
7 conventional.

8 The present invention takes a new and different approach  
9 to the file transfer task. The present invention  
10 recognizes and takes advantage of the fact that many  
11 times when a file is being transferred from a first  
12 computer to a second computer, there are files stored at  
13 the second computer that are related in some way to the  
14 file that is being transmitted. For example, new file 13  
15 may be a updated version of the old file 23.  
16 Alternatively, the new file 13 may be a file in the  
17 format of a particular word processor document such a  
18 WordPerfect. The document may for example by a contract.  
19 The old file 23 may a WordPerfect document where the  
20 document in file 23 may be an unrelated contract. The  
21 present invention takes advantage of the fact that such  
22 seemingly unrelated files may contain a substantial  
23 number of identical stings of bytes. For example, some  
24 of the similar bytes may be formatting information,  
25 others similar bytes may be type fonts, others similar  
26 bytes may be similar phrases that appear in the two  
27 documents, etc. With the present invention similarities

1    between a new file (i.e. the file being transmitted) and  
2    a document at the receiving computer are detected and  
3    used to speed the transmission of  
4    the new file.

5    The present invention also takes advantage that present  
6    day modems 3 and 4 can operate in a full duplex mode  
7    where information is transferred simultaneously in two  
8    directions. The present invention utilizes bi-  
9    directional transfer of information between computers to  
10   speed the transfer of information in one direction.

11   The preferred embodiment described herein performs the  
12   following major steps in order to transfer a copy of new  
13   file 13 from computer 1 to computer 2.

14   a) A file stored on computer 2 is selected for  
15   designation as old file 23.

16   b) Computer 2 divides the old file 23 into 128 byte  
17   segments and calculates a hash number (e.g. a CRC  
18   number) for each 128 byte segment of the old  
19   file 23.

20   c) Computer 2 sends to computer 1 the hash numbers for  
21   the segments of file 23. Computer 1 stores these hash  
22   numbers in a Segment Profile Table (SPT).

23   d) Computer 1 calculates hash numbers for each possible  
24   segment in the new file 13 and compares these hash  
25   numbers to the hash numbers it has received from  
26   computer 2. Segments in the new file which have

1 hash numbers that correspond to the hash number of a  
2 segment in the old file are termed matching  
3 segments.

4 e) Bytes in the new file that are not part of any  
5 matching segment are transmitted from computer 1 to  
6 computer 2.

7 f) Matching segments are not transmitted from computer 1  
8 to computer 2. Instead the computer 1 sends computer 2  
9 an indication that a particular matching segment  
10 fits at a particular place in the file being  
11 constructed at computer 2. The location where the  
12 segments from the old file 23 fit into the copy 13C  
13 of the new file is evident from the sequence in  
14 which bytes from the new file and segment  
15 identifications are transmitted.

16 g) Computer 2 constructs a copy 13C of the new file 13  
17 from the transmitted bytes and from matching  
18 segments copied from the old file.

19 At the beginning of the transmission process after a file  
20 on computer 2 has been designated as old file 23,  
21 computer 1 has an empty SPT. At this point computer 1  
22 begins calculating the hash number of the first segment  
23 in new file 13. Since the SPT is empty the calculated  
24 hash numbers will not match any hash number in the SPT.  
25 Since no match is found, computer 1 sends the first byte  
26 in the first segment of file 13 to computer 2. A new  
27 byte from file 13 is then be added to the segment and a

1 new hash number calculated. The process repeats. At the  
2 same time that computer 1 is examining segments of new  
3 file 13, computer 23 is calculating hash numbers for  
4 segments in old file 23 and transmitting these values to  
5 computer 1 for storage in the SPT. As time progresses,  
6 the SPT will contain more and more entries and matches  
7 between hash numbers computer by computer 1 and  
8 information in the SPT will begin to occur. When  
9 computer 1 finds a matching segment (i.e. a segment that  
10 has a hash number that matches one of the hash numbers in  
11 the SPT), computer 1 merely sends computer 2 an  
12 indication that a match has been detected and that  
13 computer 2 should copy a particular segment from the old  
14 file into the new file. When computer 1 finds a matching  
15 segment and transmits this information to computer 2,  
16 computer 2 will insert the matching segment from the old  
17 file 23 immediately after the last byte that was received  
18 from computer 1. Thus the sequence information is  
19 received by computer 2 indicates where segments from the  
20 old file 23 should be inserted in the copy 13C of the new  
21 file.

22 Segments from old file 23 are identified in the SPT by  
23 the offset of the first byte in the segment. Thus when  
24 computer 1 sends to computer 2 the identification of a  
25 segment (i.e. the offset of the first byte of a segment)  
26 the computer 2 can identify which part of the old file 23  
27 should be copied into the copy 13C of the new file 13

1 that is being constructed.

2 The type of hash number used in the preferred embodiment  
3 of the invention described herein is the well known  
4 cyclical redundancy check (CRC) number. The manner of  
5 calculating such numbers is well known. It is noted that  
6 while as described herein, the calculated CRC number is  
7 described as uniquely identifies a specific segment, as  
8 is well known, this is only correct in a practical sense  
9 and not in a strict mathematical sense. Errors can  
10 occur in that the same CRC can sometimes be calculated  
11 for two different segments. The number of such "errors"  
12 is so low as to be negligible and as described herein the  
13 CRC numbers are assumed to represent unique file  
14 segments. The number of possible duplications (i.e.  
15 errors) can be further reduced by using a longer CRC  
16 polynomial. As is well known, for computational  
17 efficiency, the length of the CRC is best chosen to match  
18 the size of the computer's registers. In situations  
19 where the length of the CRC is dictated by other  
20 considerations, two concatenated CRC numbers can be used  
21 to reduce the number of "errors". The manner of  
22 calculating CRC numbers is well known and forms no part of  
23 the present invention. Instead of using CRC numbers as  
24 hash numbers, the other well known types of hash numbers  
25 could be used.

26 Each of the above major steps will now be explained in

1 detail as will their purpose and how they are carried  
2 out. Figures 2 and 4 are program flow diagrams showing  
3 the operations that take place on computers 1 and 2.  
4 Figure 3A is a diagram showing the information stored in  
5 the SPT. Figure 3B is a table illustrating a  
6 representative sequence of information that is  
7 transmitted from computer 1 to computer 2.

8 It is noted that data can simultaneously flow in both  
9 directions over communication line 7 from modem 3 to  
10 modem 4 and from modem 4 to modem 3. That is line 7  
11 operates in full duplex mode. Modems and communication  
12 programs that handle duplex communication are well known.  
13 The unique method and apparatus of the present invention  
14 takes advantage of the ability to transfer data in the  
15 reverse direction without slowing the transfer of data in  
16 the forward direction in order to speed the transfer of  
17 the file in the forward direction.

18 Two processes take place on receiving computer 2. First  
19 a CRC number is calculated for each segment in the old  
20 file. This first processes includes receiving the file  
21 name and file type of the new file from computer 1 and  
22 determining which file stored at computer 2 will be  
23 designated as the old file. Second, computer 2 receives  
24 bytes and segment identifications from computer 1 and a  
25 copy 13C of the new file 13 is constructed. As shown in  
26 Figure 2, the first process which takes place on computer

1 2 is indicated by blocks 201 to 206 and the second  
2 process is indicated by blocks 210 to 214.

3 At the initiation of a file transfer operation, computer  
4 1 send to computer 2, the file name and file type of the  
5 file which will be transmitted (block 201). Computer 2  
6 selects a file (block 202) which will be used as old file  
7 23 based upon the following priorities:

8 1) Same file name and file type. If no such file, then,  
9 2) Same file type and same file name except for two  
10 characters. If no such file, then,  
11 3) Same file type. If no such file, then,  
12 4) Same file name. If no such file, then,  
13 5) Longest available file.

14 It is noted that various alternative ways could also be  
15 used to identify which file on computer 2 will be  
16 designated as "old file" 23.

17 Next (block 203) the first 128 byte segment is read from  
18 the file designated as old file 23 and the CRC number for  
19 this segment is calculated (block 204). The calculated  
20 CRC number is sent to computer 1 (block 205). It is  
21 noted that as computer 1 receives a sequence of CRC  
22 numbers, the offset of the beginning of the segment used  
23 to calculate each CRC number is merely the offset of the  
24 segment used to calculate the previous number increased  
25 by 128. The operations in block 203, 204 and 205 repeat  
26 until the end of file is detected at which time the old

1 file is closed (block 206). The operations indicated by  
2 blocks 203, 204 and 205, in effect divide the old file 23  
3 into segments, each 128 bytes long, a CRC is calculated  
4 for each of these segments, and the CRC values are  
5 transmitted to computer 1.

6 At the same time the operations indicated by blocks 202  
7 to 206 are taking place, computer 2 is receiving  
8 information from computer 1. This is indicated by block  
9 210 to 214. Typical modern day computers can easily  
10 handle such multitasking on a time shared basis.  
11 Initially computer 1 sends computer 2 a series of bytes  
12 from the new file 13 (block 210). As the process  
13 progresses, identification of segments from old file 23  
14 (block 212) will be received interspersed with bytes from  
15 new file 13. How this occurs will be explained later  
16 with reference to figures 3B and 4.

17 The receiving computer 2 builds the copy 13C of the new  
18 file 13 (block 213) from the bytes received from computer  
19 1 and from segments from old file 23 (when it receives a  
20 segment identification). Finally an end of file  
21 indication is received (block 214) and the process is  
22 complete.

23 The CRC numbers that are sent from computer 2 to computer  
24 1 are assembled in computer 1 in a Segment Profile Table  
25 (SPT) such as that shown in Figure 3A. It is noted that

1 the numbers 0 to 8 shown in the first column of Figure 3A  
2 are shown in Figure 3A merely for convenience of  
3 illustration. In the actual SPT, since each segment is  
4 128 bytes long, the segment identifications in the  
5 actual SPT would be the offset of the beginning of each  
6 segment (i. e. the numbers 0 to 8 multiplied by 128).

7 The operations which take place at computer 1 are shown  
8 in Figure 4. As with the computer 2, two process proceed  
9 simultaneously (i.e. in a multitasking mode) at computer  
10 1. First there is a calculating and sending operation  
11 indicated by blocks 401 to 410 and second there is the  
12 receiving operation indicated by blocks 421 and 422.

13 When a file transfer is initiated the first step (block  
14 401) involves transferring the file name and file type of  
15 the new file 13 (i.e. the name of the file being  
16 transferred) from computer 1 to computer 2. Next a file  
17 pointer is set to "0" (block 402) and the first one  
18 hundred and twenty eight bytes are read from new file 13  
19 and the CRC of this first segment is calculated (block  
20 403). The CRC so calculated is compared to the CRC  
21 numbers in the SPT (block 405). When the operation  
22 begins, no CRC numbers will as of yet been received from  
23 computer 2 and the SPT will be empty, thus no match will  
24 be found. The first byte in the segment will therefore  
25 be sent to computer 2 (block 407), the effect of that one  
26 byte on the CRC is subtracted from the calculated CRC

1 (block 408), the next byte read from the file, and a new  
2 CRC calculated (block 409). If the end of the file has  
3 not been reached (block 404), the new CRC will be  
4 compared to the contents of the SPT and the operation  
5 proceeds. If there is a match between the calculated CRC  
6 number and a CRC number in the SPT, the segment number of  
7 the file from the SPT will be sent to computer 2 (block  
8 406) and an entirely new 128 byte segment will be read  
9 from the file (block 403).

10

11 The above process continues until and end of file  
12 indication is detected (block 404). When the end of file  
13 indication is detected, the bytes remaining (which could  
14 be up to 127 bytes) are sent to computer 2 (block 410).

15 As indicated by block 421, the computer 1 receives the  
16 CRC numbers calculated as indicated in Figure 2.  
17 Computer 1 uses these numbers (block 422) to build a  
18 Segment Profile Table (SPT) as indicated in Figure 3A.

19 An example of the sequence in which information is  
20 transmitted from computer 1 to computer 2 is given in  
21 Figure 3A. The reference numbers in the first column of  
22 figure 3A are merely for reference during the explanation  
23 of the table. The second column gives the information  
24 transmitted and the third column is merely an brief  
25 explanation to facilitate and understanding of Figure 3A.

1 As indicated by line L1, the first information  
2 transmitted from computer 1 to computer 2 is the file  
3 name and file type of the new file 13. This information  
4 is used by computer 2, to select a file which will be  
5 used as old file 23. Next in the example shown, bytes 1-  
6 57 of the file are transmitted. This indicates that for  
7 the particular file in question the first fifty seven  
8 times through the loop formed by blocks 403 to 405 in  
9 Figure 4, no matching CRC was found in the SPT. Next as  
10 indicated by line L3, block 405 in figure 4 determines  
11 that the segment of the new file being examined has the  
12 same CRC number as does segment 3 in the old file.  
13 Computer 1 merely sends to computer 2 an indication that  
14 after putting the first 57 bytes (i.e. line L2 from  
15 Figure 3B) into the file 13C, computer 2 should copy  
16 segment 3 from the old file 23 into the new file 13C.  
17 The process then proceeds through lines L4 to L7 etc. It  
18 is noted that line L7 in figure 3A shows that the same  
19 segment from the old file can be used more than once in  
20 constructing the new file 13C.  
21 It is noted that the technique used to determine which  
22 file on computer 2 is designated as the old file is not  
23 particularly relevant to the present invention. Various  
24 techniques could be used as an alternative to that shown  
25 above. Naturally if the old file selected closely  
26 resembles the new file 13, less bytes and more segments  
27 identifications could be transmitted by computer 1

1 thereby reducing the transmission time.

2 It is also noted that the segments used in the above  
3 described preferred embodiment are 128 bytes long.  
4 Longer or shorter segments could be selected depending  
5 upon the particular nature of the files being  
6 transmitted. Furthermore the segment length could be  
7 made dependent on various factors such as whether there  
8 is a file in computer 2 with the same file name and file  
9 type as the file in the sending computer or the file type  
10 of the file begin transferred.

11 In the above described preferred embodiment, the  
12 information in the SPT is only used to transmit one file,  
13 herein designated new file 13. It is noted that the SPT  
14 from each transmission operation can be saved such that  
15 subsequent transmissions have at their disposal a large  
16 SPT which defines segments in a plurality of files on the  
17 receiving computer. Similar segments which could be  
18 identified in a number of different files on the  
19 receiving computer could then be used to speed the  
20 transmission of one new file. That is the copy of the  
21 new file would be made from segments which are identified  
22 in a number of files on the receiving computer.

23 While in the preferred embodiment described above, a file  
24 of the type used in DOS based computers was transferred  
25 from computer 1 to computer 2, it should be understood

1 that in alternative embodiments, the invention could be  
2 used to transfer other types of "files" between  
3 computers. For example the invention could be used to  
4 transfer a particular string of bytes from one computer  
5 to a second computer. Thus, it should be understood that  
6 the present invention can be used to transfer any string  
7 of bytes (herein termed a "file") from one computer to a  
8 second computer.

9 It is noted that herein computer 2 divides file 23 into  
10 segments and calculates a CRC for each such segment,  
11 while computer 1, calculates a CRC for each possible  
12 segment, i.e each 128 byte segment following each byte in  
13 the file. It is noted that in alternative embodiments,  
14 computer two could also calculate hash numbers for  
15 segments starting at various points in the file or  
16 computer 1 could calculate CRC numbers by first dividing  
17 the file into fixed length segments and later going back  
18 and re-dividing the file into segments starting at  
19 different places in the file.

20

21 While the invention has been described with reference to  
22 a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood  
23 that the alternatives mentioned and various other  
24 alternatives could be chosen without departing from the  
25 spirit and scope of the invention. The invention is  
26 limited solely by the limitations in the appended claims.

1    We claim:

2    1) A method of transferring a particular file from a  
3    first computer to a second computer, said second computer  
4    having therein a second file, said method comprising the  
5    steps of:

6    a) analyzing said second file and generating a hash  
7    number    for segments thereof,  
8    b) transferring said hash numbers to said first computer  
9    and storing them in a table,  
10   d) analyzing said particular file to determine segments  
11        thereof that have hash numbers corresponding to hash  
12        numbers in said table, segments in said particular  
13        file which have hash numbers corresponding to hash  
14        numbers in said table comprising a first set of  
15        segments,

16   e) sending to the second computer those parts of the  
17        first    file which are not part of any segment in said  
18        first set of segments, and sending to the  
19        second computer an indication of the segments  
20        that are in said first set of segments, and  
21   f) combining at said second computer the parts of said  
22        particular file that were transmitted with  
23        designated parts of the second file to construct a  
24        replica of said particular file.

25   2) The method recited in claim 1 wherein said table is a  
26        Segment Profile Table having a list of segments and an  
27        indication of the hash number for each segment in the

1 list of segments.

2 3) The method recited in claim 1 wherein said hash  
3 numbers are cyclical redundancy check numbers.

4 4) The method recited in claim 1 wherein said particular  
5 file is a new file.

6 5) The method recited in claim 1 including the step of  
7 sending the name of said particular file from said  
8 first computer to said second computer.

9 6) The method recited in claim 5 wherein said second  
10 computer has stored therein a plurality of files and  
11 including the step of selecting a file at said second  
12 computer which forms said second file.

13 7) The method recited in claim 6 wherein said selection  
14 is based on the name of said particular file which was  
15 sent from said first computer to said second computer.

- 1        8) A system for transferring a particular file from a
- 2        first computer to a second computer, said second computer
- 3        having therein a second file, said system comprising the
- 4        steps of:
  - 5        a) means for analyzing said second file and generating a
  - 6                hash number for each segment thereof,
  - 7        b) means for transferring said hash numbers to said first
  - 8                computer and storing them in a table,
  - 9        c) means for analyzing said particular file to determine
  - 10               segments thereof that have hash numbers
  - 11               corresponding to hash numbers in said table,
  - 12               segments in said particular file which have hash
  - 13               numbers corresponding to hash numbers in said table
  - 14               comprising a first set of segments,
  - 15        d) means for sending to the second computer those parts
  - 16        of the first file which are not part of any segment in
  - 17               said first set of segments, and sending to the
  - 18               second computer an indication of the segments that
  - 19               are in said first set of segments, and
  - 20        e) means for combining at said second computer the parts
  - 21        of said particular file that were transmitted with
  - 22               designated parts of said second file to construct a
  - 23               replica of the said particular file.
- 24        9) The system recited in 8 wherein said hash numbers are
- 25               cyclical redundancy check (CRC) numbers.

1 10) A system for transferring a first string of bytes  
2 from a first computer to a second computer, said  
3 second computer having a second string of bytes  
4 stored thereon, the string stored on said  
5 second computer being devisable into segments,  
6 means for transferring to said first computer a plurality  
7 of hash numbers calculated from segments in said second  
8 string of bytes, each hash number uniquely  
9 identifying the content of the segment from which it  
10 was calculated,  
11 means for identifying a set of segments in said first  
12 string of bytes which have hash numbers corresponding  
13 to hash numbers transferred from said second  
14 computer to said first computer,  
15 means for transferring from said first computer to said  
16 second computer the portions of said particular file  
17 which are not in any segments in said set of  
18 segments, and an indication of which segments from  
19 said second set of bytes has a corresponding segment  
20 in said first string of bytes,  
21 means in said second computer for forming a third string  
22 of bytes from the segments in the string of bytes on  
23 said second computer identified in said set of  
24 segments, and from the parts of said first string of  
25 bytes which are transmitted to said second computer.

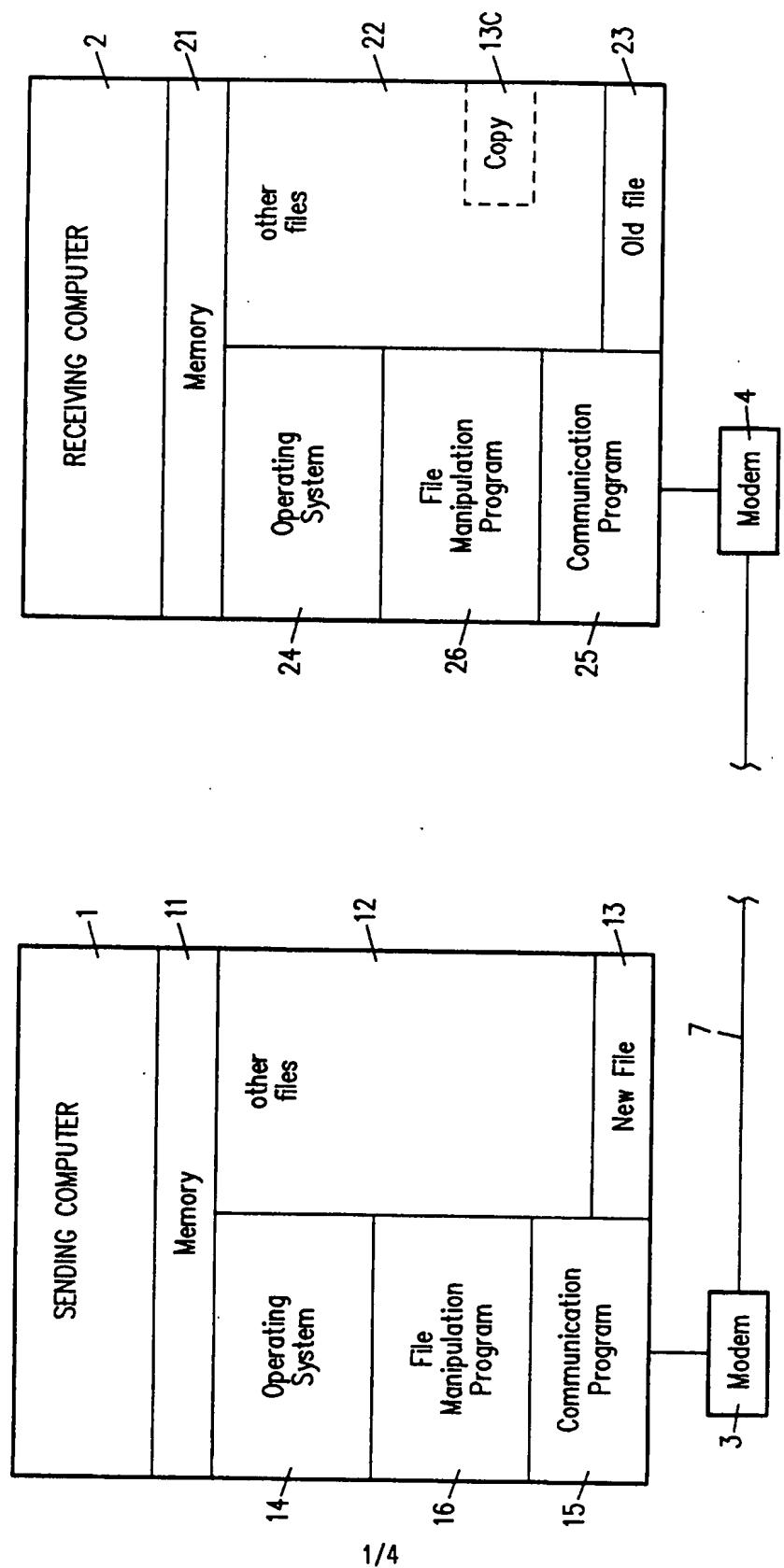


FIG. 1

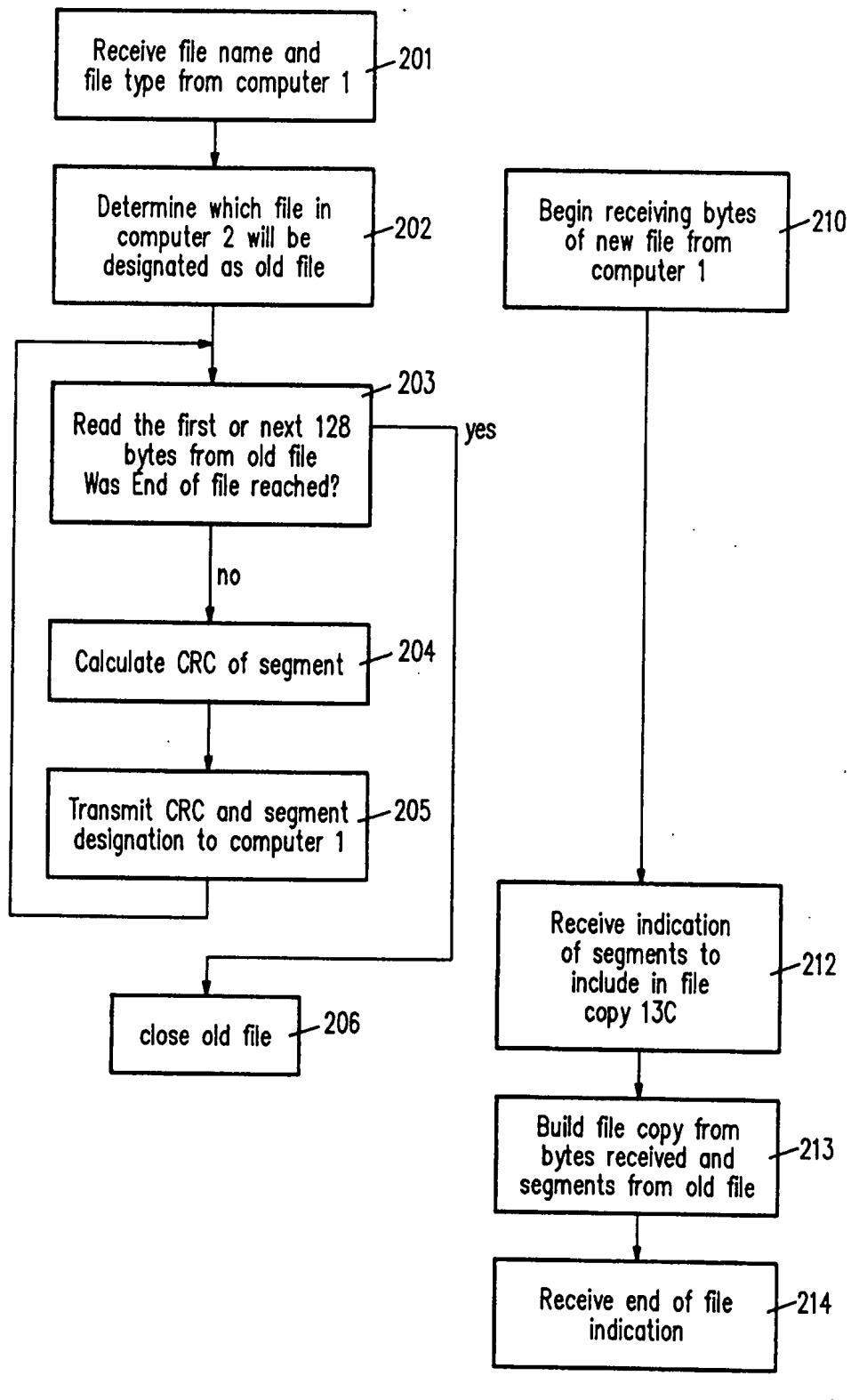


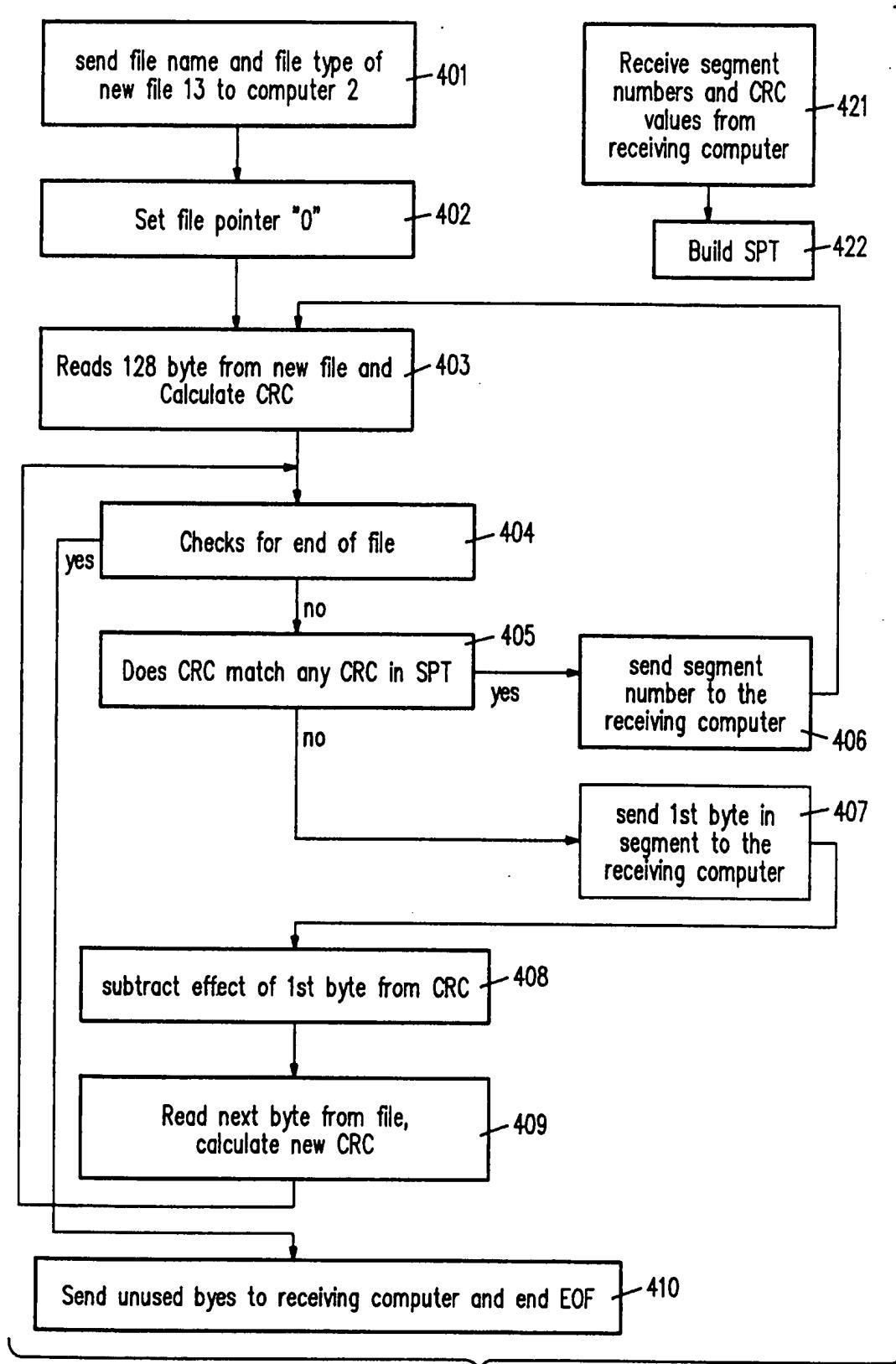
FIG. 2

Segment in Old File	CRC of segment
0	435
1	529
2	314
3	435
4	529
5	314
6	435
7	529
8	314
Other Segments	

FIG. 3A

Ref #	Information transmitted	Comment
L1	file name and file type of new file 13	Allows computer 2 to pick which file to use as old file
L2	Bytes 1-57	No CRC match found
L3	ID of segment 3	CRC equals Segment 3
L4	Bytes 185-201	No CRC match found
L5	ID of segment 1	CRC equals Segment 1
L6	Bytes 354-355	No CRC match found
L7	ID of segment 3	Example of Repeat
L8	Etc.	

FIG. 3B

FIG. 4  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US94/14969

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :G06F 13/00

US CL :395/200

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 395/200, 600

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS

search terms: cyclic redundancy check, hashing, file transfer, data compression

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, A, 4,641,274 (SWANK) 03 February 1987, column 3, lines 8-56, column 4, lines 19-47.	1-10
Y	US, A, 4,701,745 (WATERWORTH) 20 October 1987, ABSTRACT, column 1, lines 13-18.	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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*E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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